

# House Concurrent Resolution No. 5

## 91<sup>ST</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY

3400L.011

2       **Whereas**, American Sign Language (ASL) has been appropriately recognized by  
3 the Missouri General Assembly as "a fully developed, autonomous, unique, visual-gestural  
4 language with its own syntax, rhetoric, grammar and morphology" (Section 209.285, RSMo); and

5       **Whereas**, there are an estimated 546,000 persons in Missouri who are deaf or hard  
6 of hearing, of whom approximately 10,000 have American Sign Language (ASL) as their first  
7 or native language; and  
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9       **Whereas**, the Missouri General Assembly truly values the socio, cultural, ethnic,  
10 and linguistic diversity of its citizenry:  
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12       **Now, therefore, be it resolved** that the members of the House of  
13 Representatives of the Ninety-first General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate  
14 concurring therein, hereby recognize American Sign Language as the first or native language of  
15 many of its deaf and hard of hearing citizens; and  
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17       **Be it further resolved** that the members of the House of Representatives  
18 of the Ninety-first General Assembly, Second Regular Session, the Senate concurring therein,  
19 hereby urge the Governor to establish by executive order an annual "Deaf Awareness Week" to  
20 be held in September of each year to coincide with the International Deaf Awareness Week, at  
21 which time the language, culture, and contributions of Missouri's deaf and hard of hearing  
22 citizens will be recognized; and  
23

24       **Be it further resolved** that the Chief Clerk of the Missouri House of  
25 Representatives be instructed to prepare a properly inscribed copy of this resolution for Governor  
26 Bob Holden.